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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Marketing Service
Marketing Research Division and Cotton Division

CHARGES FOR GINNING COTTON, COSTS OF SELECTED SERVICES INCIDENT TO MARKETING, AND RELATED INFORMATION, SEASON 1957-58 1/

Ginning Charges.--Cotton growers paid $14.51 on the average during the 1957-58 season for the ginning and wrapping of a 500-pound gross-weight bale of upland cotton, or 95 cents more than in 1956-57. Beltwide charges for bagging and ties averaged $4.13 per bale, 11 cents higher than for the prior season. Increased costs to growers for the actual ginning service in most areas did not result from higher rates, but rather from less favorable gin turnouts and from shifts in harvesting methods. Average ginning and wrapping charges per bale ranged by States from $8.96 in Virginia to $18.55 in Missouri. Charges declined slightly in Arizona and Virginia compared with the previous season, but elsewhere were higher, with increases ranging from 10 cents per bale in Louisiana to more than $1 in California, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Tennessee, and Texas. Roller gins in 1957-58 charged $25.64 per 500-pound bale for ginning and wrapping the approximately 78,000 bales of American-Egyptian cotton, as against $23.68 in 1956-57.

Methods of harvesting.--Weather was unfavorable in many parts of the Belt during the 1957-58 harvest. Only 44 percent of the 1957 crop was handpicked, compared with 53 percent of the 1956 crop and 54 percent of both the 1955 and 1954 crops. About 19 percent of the 1957 crop was machine-picked and 24 percent was hand-snapped; 13 percent was machine-stripped, a proportion about twice as great as that for any other recent crop. Although relative use of machine pickers was down slightly on the whole, proportions of machine-picked cotton again increased in Arizona (where 54 percent was so harvested), California (70 percent), and Louisiana (35 percent). Use of hand-snapping was at an unusually high level in the South Central region and in several southeastern States. As formerly, machine stripping was confined chiefly to Oklahoma and Texas, but was employed at a record level with 49 and 35 percent, respectively, of the cotton in these 2 States harvested in this manner.

Pounds of seed cotton required for a 500-pound gross-weight bale.--Standard-weight bales of upland cotton in 1957-58 required 1,430 pounds of handpicked seed cotton, 1,492 pounds of machine-picked, 1,989 of hand-snapped, and 2,261 of machine-stripped. Regardless of the method, more seed cotton was necessary, on the average, to make a standard-weight bale this season than last. A 500-pound bale of American-Egyptian cotton in 1957-58 required 1,533 pounds of handpicked seed cotton.

Purchases of cotton by ginners.--Ginners bought about one-fifth of the 1957 crop from growers, a proportion about unchanged from the prior 2 seasons. Only 1 percent of the crop was sold by growers as seed cotton.

Selected services incident to marketing.--Charges by public cotton warehouses in 1957-58 averaged 80 cents per bale for receiving (up 5 cents over 1956-57) and 47 cents per bale per month for storage (up 4 cents). Average charge for compression was $1.42 per bale for standard-density bales and $1.64 for high-density, both charges about 10 cents higher than during 1956-57.

1/ Primary data were collected by field representatives of the Cotton Division and were tabulated in the Market Organization and Costs Branch, Marketing Research Division. The report was made possible by the beltwide cooperation of ginners, compressmen, and warehousemen.

(See reverse side of this sheet for more detailed figures by States.)

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Average charges for ginning upland cotton, average charges for selected services incident to marketing, and related information, by States, season 1957-58

Item	U. S.	Ala.	Ariz.	Ark.	Calif.	Fla.	Ga.	La.	Miss.	Mo.	N. Mex.	N. C.	Okla.	S. C.	Tenn.	Tex.	Va.
BALES GINNED * (Running bales)....thousands	10,789	527	703	963	1,556	7	390	346	1,070	182	214	236	259	347	403	3,574	7
CHARGES FOR GINNING AND WRAPPING UPLAND COTTON:																	
Total charge per 500-pound gross-weight bale 1/....dollars	14.51	10.73	14.60	15.85	15.36	12.35	11.28	13.76	13.09	18.55	13.99	11.65	16.65	11.52	13.26	15.45	8.96
Charge per bale for bagging and ties when assessed separately....dollars	4.13	3.51	--	4.18	3.41	3.68	3.45	4.12	4.34	4.85	3.93	3.55	4.02	3.47	4.38	4.17	3.00
METHOD OF HARVESTING:																	
Hand-picked....percent	44	70	36	63	29	50	89	50	65	63	69	98	1	99	81	18	100
Hand-snapped....percent	24	28	10	22	1	17	9	15	18	28	12	2	50	--	18	45	--
Machine-picked....percent	19	2	54	15	70	33	2	35	17	9	15	2/	2/	1	1	2	--
Machine-stripped....percent	13	2/	2/	--	--	--	--	2/	--	--	4	--	49	--	--	35	--
WEIGHT OF SEED COTTON PER 500-POUND BALE:																	
Hand-picked....pounds	1,430	3/	1,460	1,449	1,400	3/	3/	3/	1,382	1,518	1,430	3/	1,506	3/	1,429	1,452	5/
Hand-snapped....pounds	1,989	3/	2,155	1,982	2,600	3/	3/	3/	1,762	2,224	2,016	3/	2,017	--	1,995	1,994	--
Machine-picked....pounds	1,492	3/	1,450	1,505	1,505	3/	3/	3/	1,477	1,575	1,478	3/	4/	3/	1,510	1,510	--
Machine-stripped....pounds	2,261	3/	4/	--	--	--	--	3/	--	--	2,268	--	2,221	--	--	2,265	--
PROPORTION OF PRODUCTION PURCHASED FROM GROWERS BY GINNERS:																	
Purchased as seed cotton....percent	1	1	--	1	--	3	2/	2/	2/	2	--	9	1	2/	6	2/	41
Purchased as baled lint....percent	19	27	1	28	6	31	39	13	4	74	2	25	18	41	72	18	17
CHARGES FOR WAREHOUSING AND RELATED SERVICES:																	
Charge per bale for receiving cotton at public cotton storage establishments....cents	80	74	100	68	98	5/	78	73	66	65	97	43	75	50	68	83	5/
Charge per bale per month for storage 6/....cents	47	50	45	45	43	5/	51	45	45	45	47	47	50	47	46	51	5/
Charge per bale for compressing cotton to--																	
Standard density....dollars	1.42	1.29	1.60	1.01	1.68	5/	1.29	1.21	1.03	1.00	1.75	5/	1.42	1.30	1.00	1.64	--
High density....dollars	1.64	1.45	1.70	1.40	1.78	5/	1.46	1.40	1.40	1.40	1.85	--	1.50	1.43	1.40	1.65	--

1/ Includes charges for drying seed cotton and/or for the use of lint cleaners. 2/ Less than 0.5 percent. 3/ Seed cotton customarily not weighed. 4/ Insignificant proportion of cotton harvested by this method. 5/ Insufficient data. 6/ Represents charge for insured receipts for about 92 percent of cooperating storage establishments.

* Based on ginnings reported by the U. S. Bureau of the Census, March 24, 1958. United States total includes minor States not shown individually.